
The Perfins of Bosnia - Update

Hal Hite & the Bosnian Study Group

As you know The Bosnia Study Group recently undertook a research project regarding the perfins of Bosnia. I believe that your *Bulletin* printed some preliminary results earlier; that early information, unfortunately, contained quite a few errors,

The project is now complete and the following two (of three) charts are the results of that effort; they set the record, as we now understand it, straight.

There are also significant unanswered questions remaining, regarding these perfins, and sharing this

information with a wider audience may lead to some answers.

[Ed. – If any of you have information which will add to what is in these charts and the third chart (which I expect to publish in the February *Bulletin*), please write to him at <bosniastudygroup@verizon.net> with a cc to me please. Thanks and sorry but I don't have a snail mail address for Hal (I will, however, be glad to act as secretary and scan and then e-mail any hard copy sent here.)

THE PERFINS OF BOSNIA

Perfins have existed on Bosnia's stamps since the earliest Bosnian issue, and most collectors have examples in their collections. Unfortunately much of the literature and research, regarding these interesting items, is contradictory and incomplete.

The data herein represents the latest and most complete knowledge of this subject, as of the year 2006.

The Bosnian perfins are separated into 2 charts, with notes to accompany each chart.

CHART 1 contains those perfins that are fully accepted as being Bosnian perfins.

CHART 2 contains those perfins that may be Bosnian perfins but that lack sufficient information to be fully accepted at this time.

In addition to the perfin charts, there is an APPENDIX that contains additional perfins that exist on Bosnian stamps, but that are judged not to be true Bosnian perfins from Bosnian issuers.

Notes to accompany the 2 perfin charts

1. There are different spelling versions of the company's name for several of the perfins shown in the charts. These alternate spellings are denoted by using underlined italicized letters, followed by a question mark. I would ask anyone who has a definitive knowledge of the correct spelling to please send me an e-mail so that I can make the necessary corrections to future editions of this handbook (mail to: bosnistudygroup@verizon.net). The most authoritative source of the company name would be a perfin on cover, with the company name clearly indicated. Some of the confusion surrounding these alternate spellings may be partially due to the fact that several companies pre-printed envelopes in multiple languages. Different envelopes were used, based on the language of the destination of the correspondence. Also, as Stephen Tauber has noted:

Reformed German spelling was introduced in 1890 in Germany. The reforms gradually diffused into usage in other German-speaking countries. Thus, for example, the postmark for Cassel became "Kassel", and "Central Postamt" became "Zentral Postamt" (or just "Zentralpostamt"). It is entirely possible that, as printed stationery was replenished, "Actien" became "Aktien" (B.A.G.) and "Central" became "Zentral" (KB). Thus, both spellings might have been used by the same company. The modern spelling for Cellulosefabrik would similarly be "Zellulosefabrik" (C.D).

2. Most of the perfins have numerical entries denoting the Scott catalog numbers of known examples. This inventory is surely incomplete. Any additional data that you could provide, via a review of examples in your collection, would be appreciated. We have used the Scott catalog numbers for this inventory since this is an English language publication: we realize that the Michel catalog contains more detailed Bosnia listings.

3. In an attempt to provide a qualitative measure of rarity, the following 4 categories are used in the charts below.

Readily available

Available

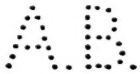





Scarce


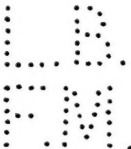

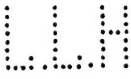
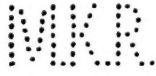
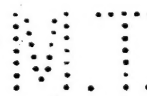

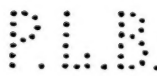
Very rare (in some cases may not currently exist?)

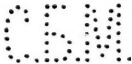
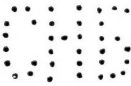


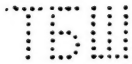

THE PERFINS OF BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

CHART 1

(KNOWN EXAMPLES WITH ACCOMPANYING ISSUER INFORMATION)

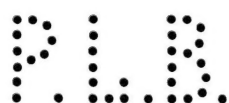
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | <p>Albert Broz Surgical Instruments Sarajevo</p> <p>15 x 9 mm. #70 Very rare</p> |  | <p>Adler & Társa Banking Sarajevo</p> <p>13.5 x 8 mm. # 4, 13, 14 Scarce</p> |
|  | <p>Bau Aktien Gesellschaft Construction Sarajevo</p> <p>17 x 8 mm. # 35, 68, 70 Scarce</p> |  | <p>Cellulosefabrik Bosnische Forst-Industrie-Aktien- Gesellschaft Otto Steinbeis Cellulose Drvar Branch in Bos. Petrovac</p> <p>13.5 x 7.5 mm. # 30, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 57, 68, 70, 72, 73, 75, 76, 91, 110, 111 Available</p> |
|  | <p>Eisenindustrie Aktien Gesellschaft Iron Works Zenica</p> <p>15 x 7.5 mm. # 13,14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 49, 51, 52, 68, 70, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 81, 91, 106, 108, 110, 111, B2 Readily available</p> |  | <p>H. Franck i Sinovi Coffee Trading Sarajevo</p> <p>16.5 x 11 mm. # 16, 35, 70 Scarce</p> |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
|  | <p>Handelgesellschaft Filiale Sarajevo Wholesale Ironware Sarajevo</p> <p>Very Rare</p> |  | <p>Landesbank, Filiale Mosta Banking Mostar</p> <p>14 x 16.5 mm. # 6, 16, 18, 30, 33, 34, 35 Scarce</p> |
|  | <p>Ludwig Hatschek <u>Eternitwerke??</u> Sarajevo Also branch in Gmundin, Austria</p> <p>22 x 8 mm. #34, 35, 36, 51, 70, 74, 91 Scarce</p> |  | <p>Ladislaus L. Hatschek Typewriters and Office Machines Sarajevo</p> <p>22 x 9.5 mm. #68, 72 Very rare</p> |
|  | <p>Magyar Kereskedelmi Bank Banking Sarajevo <u>Kereskedelmi?</u></p> <p>17 x 7 mm. # 31, 47, 50, 51, 55 Scarce</p> |  | <p><u>Montangesellschaft Telluria?</u> <u>Mining?</u> <u>Sarajevo?</u> <u>Metallgesellschaft?</u> <u>Moritz Tiller & Co.?</u></p> <p>15 x 8 mm. # 35 Very Rare</p> |
|  | <p>Privilegierte Agrar und Kommerziell Bank für Bosnien und die Hercegovina (also) Priv. Agrar-und Commercial Bank (also) Priv. Agrarna I Komercialna Banka Banking Sarajevo Branch in Brecko</p> <p>22.5 x 9.5 mm. # 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 75, 76, 77, 91, 106, 107, 108, 110, 111, 114, P3(perf.), P4 Readily available</p> |  | <p>Privilegierte Landesbank (also) Banque Privilegiee du Pays Banking Sarajevo Branches in Dol. Tuzla, Banja Luca and Fojnica?</p> <p>15.5 x 6 mm. # 5, 4a, 5a, 6a, 7a, 8a, 6b, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 37, 39, 41, 51, 52, 53, 55, 62, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 91, 106, 108, 110, 111, 112, B15 Readily Available</p> |

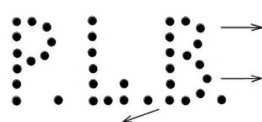
| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
|  SBM | Srpska Banka (also)Serbische Bank Banking Mostar 16.5 x 7 mm. # 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 68, 70, 74, 75, 76, 91, 106, 114 Available |  SNB | Srpska Narodna Banka Banking Sarajevo 17 x 10 mm. # 70, 72, 75, 77 Scarce |
|  SRP | J.B.Schmarda, Rotter & Perschitz Commerce and Transportation Sarajevo Also branches in Mostar and Bos. Brod (plus other cities?) 13.5 x 7 mm. # 5, 7, 4a, 5a, 6a, 7a, 6b, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 25, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41, 51, 52, 58, 67, 70, 72, 73, 75, 77, 91 Readily Available |  ST | Solvay Tuzla (<i>Solway?</i>) Tuzla <u>Saline?</u> <u><i>Kaustische? Sodafabrik?</i></u> <u><i>Zoutindustrie?</i></u> 12.5 x 8.5 mm. # 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 66, 67, 70 Available |
|  TBS | Trgovacka (Banka) i Stedionica Commerce and savings bank Mostar <u><i>Tiskara Brace Santic?</i></u> 15.5 x 7 mm. # 14, 16, 33, 35, 39 Scarce |  T | Theodor Todeschini Building materials Sarajevo 11 x 9 mm. # 32, 33, 34, 35, 50, 69 Scarce |

Notes to accompany chart #1

1. There are variations of the **PLB** perfin as indicated in the patterns below. Please note that the Sarajevo and the Dolna Tuzla perfins are actually two different perfins from two different perforators. The Dolna Tuzla perfin also has a “pin missing” variety as shown.



Sarajevo



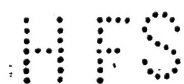
Dolna Tuzla
(1898 - 190x ?)



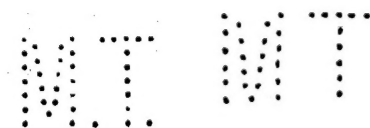
Dolna Tuzla
(after 1906 ?)

2. Two **ST** perfins are included in the study: one in chart 1 and one in chart 2. They may be from the same company or from two different issuers. Their true origin remains somewhat of a mystery.

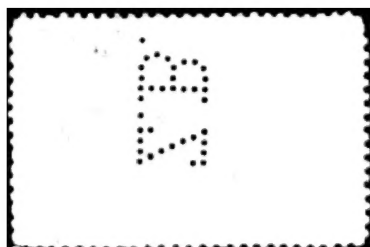
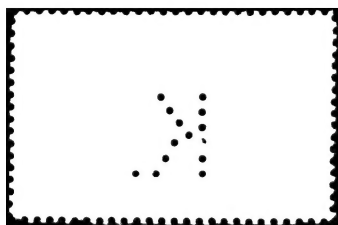
3. There may be two different versions of the perfin **HFS**. This has created some name confusion in the literature, regarding the two companies that apparently used HFS. The font with two dots in the crossbar of the H (shown below) is quite rare and may not even exist. Does anyone know of a copy?



4. The **MT** perfin is quite confusing. The literature shows two versions of the perfin MT. The version with periods definitely exists and is used herein. Does this version without periods also exist? The version without periods is listed in a perfin catalog by Frank Semmler as being issued by Metallgesellschaft Telluria, Eisenhandel. The version with periods is listed in the World Perfins Catalog as Moritz Tiller & Co. however Moritz Tiller is an Austrian firm with headquarters in Vienna.



Shown below are reference scans of the AHP, K, ST and ZB perfins, all of which are very rare.







THE POSSIBLE PERFINS OF BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

CHART 2

(KNOWN EXAMPLES WITH UNKNOWN ISSUER INFORMATION)

These perfins are believed to be valid and to be the product of Bosnia companies, but there is no current information regarding the name of the issuer.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | 19 x 9 mm. #67, 70 Very rare |  | 10 x 10 mm. # 34 Also reported on a parcel card (#35?). Very rare |
|  | <u>Also Solvay Tuzla?</u> 15 x 7 mm. # 6b Very rare |  | #31 Very rare |